Women's March, Washington, D.C.

From: Anemona Hartocollis and Yamiche Alcindor, "Women's March Highlights as Huge Crowds Protest Trump: 'We're Not Going Away'," New York Times, 21 January 2017. Photo by Chang W. Lee.

HIST 340/ SWGS 345 History of Feminism

Prof. Lora Wildenthal
Maki Kodama, doctoral student
Spring 2018
MWF 10-10:50
HUM 119

Course description Explores feminism as political thought and social movement in various times and places. Readings will include classic as well as non-canonical texts. We will consider the historical contexts of feminist action, and examine controversies over and within feminisms.

Course goals Our main intellectual goal is to examine self-described feminists (and other men and women who seriously engage that designation) in order to link their ideas to their political contexts and to the beliefs about human nature that their ideas entail. In other words, we are historically contextualizing feminisms.

This is going to happen through reading, writing, posing questions to each other, and answering them—all of which will help clarify our thinking to ourselves and to each other. Successful students will gain familiarity with European, American, and other feminisms and with historians' main arguments concerning the emergence and range of existing feminisms. Students will also practice the skills of writing questions, analytical essays of various lengths, revision of writing, and oral presentations.

Course requirements

38% Assignment 1
in-class writing—4%
500-word essay—8%
3-5 minute presentation—13%
1500-page essay—13%

21% Assignment 2
500-word essay—8%
1500-page essay—13%

8% Assignment 3
(500-word essay—8%)

33% Assignment 4
citation/ URL—3%
in-class writing on chosen primary source—4%
3-5 minute presentation—13%
1500-word essay—13%

Required books for purchase

Do not pay for Kindle editions, as you will need the readings in paper form for class.

Echols, Alice. Daring to Be Bad. Radical Feminism. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989.

Hershatter, Gail. Dangerous Pleasures: Prostitution and Modernity in Twentieth-century Shanghai. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997.

Required readings available on Canvas

You need to print these out, as you cannot use a computer in class. *If you print from campus equipment, it will cost you 7 cents per sheet, or about $15 in all (less if you print duplex). See kb.rice.edu/page.php?id=71577*

Sievers, Sharon. "Six (or More) Feminists in Search of a Historian." In Expanding the Boundaries of Women's History. Essays on Women in the Third World, 319-330. Ed. Cheryl Johnson-Odim and Margaret Strobel. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1992.

Arat, Zehra F. "Turkish Women and the Republican Reconstruction of Tradition." In Reconstructing Gender in the Middle East. Tradition, Identity, and Power, 57-78. Ed. Fatma Müge Göcek and Shiva Balaghi. Columbia University Press, 1994.

Reynolds, Sian. "Marianne's Citizens." In Women, State and Revolution: Essays On Power and Gender in Europe Since 1789, 102-122. Ed. Sian Reynolds. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1987.

Wollstonecraft, Mary. A Vindication of the Rights of Woman. Ed. and with an intro. by Miriam Brody. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1992. Originally published 1792. *On Canvas, I have split this into Part 1 (introductory notes and chs. 1-3) and Part 2 (4-6, 9).*

Mill, John Stuart. The Subjection of Women. London: Longmans, Green, Reader and Dyer, 1869. *On Canvas, I have split this into Parts 1 and 2.*

Bebel, August. Woman and Socialism. Trans. Meta L. Stern. New York: Socialist Literature Co., 1910. Originally published in German 1879. Excerpted here are: Introduction (pp. 3-7); ch. 8 (104-116); ch. 9 (124-132); ch. 10 (132-152); ch. 12 (174-208); ch. 13 (209-233), ch. 14 (233-238), ch. 15 (272-306); ch. 20 (363-369); ch. 21 (370-374), ch. 28 (466-473).

The Combahee River Collective. "The Combahee River Collective Statement." Home Girls. A Black Feminist Anthology, 264-274. Ed. Barbara Smith. New York: Kitchen Table Women of Color Press, 1983.

Jacobs, Aletta. Memories. My Life as an International Leader in Health, Suffrage, and Peace, vii-ix, 38-65 and 100-108. Originally published in Dutch 1924. Ed. Harriet Feinberg. Trans. Annie Wright. New York: Feminist Press, 1996.

We will also watch two films in class:

If/ when these films are streamed on Canvas, you can find them under "Pages" (not "Files").

A Doll's House, dir. Patrick Garland, Britain, 1973. 95 min. It is a film adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's 1879 play A Doll's House.

Some American Feminists, dir. Luce Guilbeault, Nicole Broussard, and Margaret Wescott, Canada, 1980. 56 min.

Schedule of Class Meetings

Our focus is on our common texts. ***Please bring your printed-out readings or your notes on the readings; writing paper; and pen or pencil.*** *If we had ever noticed that students who read texts online and used their computers to retrieve them in class did better than others, we would be recommending that.* ***Don't use laptops or cell phones in class.*** *Turn them all off. We will gently mock those who forget. Setting aside the electronics helps us focus on each other.*

Week 1 Introduction; Feminisms Outside the U.S. and Europe

Monday, 8 January
Introductions, overview of syllabus, exercise with press clipping, anonymous response
Assignment 1 distributed

Wednesday, 10 January
Discussion of responses—defining feminism

Friday, 12 January
Bring chosen essay for Assignment 1
In-class writing on reading for Assignment 1
Discussion

Week 2 Feminisms Outside the U.S. and Europe, continued

Monday, 15 January - NO CLASS

Tuesday, 16 January
Due by midnight: Turn in 500-word essay for Assignment 1

Wednesday, 17 January
In-class writing on **Sievers**
Discussion of **Sievers**

Friday, 19 January
presentations 5 per day, 10 min. total time for each

Week 3 Feminisms Outside the U.S. and Europe, continued

Once you have your presentation under control, we suggest you read ahead this week and next (Z. Arat and Reynolds).

Monday, 22 January
presentations 5 per day, 10 min. total time for each

Wednesday, 24 January
presentations 5 per day, 10 min. total time for each

Friday, 26 January
presentations 5 per day, 10 min. total time for each

Week 4 Feminisms Outside the U.S. and Europe, continued

Monday, 29 January
if needed: presentations 5 per day, 10 min. total time for each; if not needed, discussion of readings, review of key questions for course

Wednesday, 31 January
if needed: presentations 5 per day, 10 min. total time for each; if not needed, discussion of readings, review of key questions for course

Thursday, 1 February
Due by midnight: Turn in 1500-word essay for Assignment 1

Friday, 2 February
Bring all your Assignment 1 materials to class, printed out
Discuss Assignment 1

Week 5 Feminism as part of a modernizing effort; Antifeminism as modernizing republicanism

Monday, 5 February
In-class writing on Arat, "Turkish Women"
Discuss Arat, "Turkish Women"

Wednesday, 7 February
Discuss Reynolds

Friday, 9 February - NO CLASS

Week 6 A Classic 18C Radical Statement from England: Mary Wollstonecraft

Monday, 12 February
In-class writing on Wollstonecraft, chs. 1-3
Discuss Wollstonecraft

Wednesday, 14 February
Lecture: Enlightenment, French Revolution, Napoleon

Friday, 16 February
In-class writing on Wollstonecraft, 4-6 and 9

Week 7 A Classic 19C Liberal Statement from England: John Stuart Mill

Monday, 19 February
In-class writing on Mill, Part 1
Discuss Mill

Wednesday, 21 February
Lecture: The slavery analogy, race, colonialism, and Orientalism in Wollstonecraft and Mill

Friday, 23 February
In-class writing on Mill, Part 2
Discuss Mill

Week 8 A Classic Socialist Statement from Germany: August Bebel

Monday, 26 February
In-class writing on Bebel, Introduction and excerpts from chs. 8, 9, 10, 12
Discuss Bebel

Wednesday, 28 February
Lecture: Liberalism and Socialisms
Assignment 2 distributed

Friday, 2 March
In-class writing on Bebel, excerpts from chs. 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 28
Discuss Bebel

Week 9 A Classic 19C Provocation on Marriage and Motherhood: A Doll's House (1879)

Monday, 5 March
Lecture: A Doll's House Goes Global
Due by midnight: 500-word essay for Assignment 2

Wednesday, 7 March
Finish watching A Doll's House
In-class writing on A Doll's House

Friday, 9 March
Due in class: 1500-word essay for Assignment 2
Discussion of these essays

Week 10 Spring Break

Week 11 Flash Forward to the 1960s and 1970s: U.S. Feminists

Monday, 19 March
In-class writing on Echols (Foreword, Introduction, and chapters 1-4)
Discuss Echols

Wednesday, 21 March
In-class writing on Echols (chapter 5)
Discuss Echols

Friday, 23 March
In-class writing on Echols (chapter 6, Epilogue, and Appendix A)
Discuss Echols

Week 12 U.S. Feminists in the 1960s and 1970s, continued

Monday, 26 March
In-class writing on Combahee River Collective

Discuss Combahee River Collective

Wednesday, 28 March
Watch Some American Feminists

Thursday, 29 March
Due by midnight: 500-word essay for Assignment 3

Friday, 30 March
Discussion of Echols, Combahee River Collective, Some American Feminists

Week 13 Feminists and Prostitution/ Sex Work

Monday, 2 April
In-class writing on Jacobs
Discuss Jacobs
Assignment 4 distributed

Wednesday, 4 April
Lecture: Prostitution and the Liberal Individual

Friday, 6 April
In-class writing on Hershatter, ch. 1
Discuss Hershatter, ch. 1

Week 14 Feminists and Prostitution, continued

Monday, 9 April
In-class writing on Hershatter, chs. 7, 8, 9

Wednesday, 11 April
Using the Gerritsen Collection

Friday, 13 April
In-class writing on Hershatter, chs. 10, 11, 12

Week 15 Exploring on Your Own with a Primary Source

Monday, 16 April
In-class writing on Hershatter, chs. 13, 14

Wednesday, 18 April
In-class writing on your chosen primary source from the Gerritsen Collection
Due by midnight: citation or URL so we can find your primary source for Assignment 4

Friday, 20 April
Discussion of class
Preparing for final presentations on chosen Gerritsen source

Final exam We will have a **scheduled final exam between 25 April and 2 May 2018.** The exact date will be announced by the registrar after the semester has begun. Students will make presentations and turn in final essays (parts of Assignment 4) at that time.